

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A ratchet wrench comprising a housing having a first annular holding portion and a second annular holding portion spaced from each other, a shank having a base portion and an engaging portion and disposed between said first and second annular holding portions, and a spring for imparting friction to said shank and for urging the shank toward said second annular holding portion, wherein a friction member formed of a sintered copper alloy is interposed between said base portion of said shank and said second annular holding portion.
2. (Original) A ratchet wrench according to claim 1, wherein a washer is disposed between said shank and said spring, said washer being formed of a sintered copper alloy.
3. (Original) A ratchet wrench according to claim 1, wherein a pin is fixed near said engaging portion of said shank and a guide bushing is disposed between said pin and said spring, said guide bushing being formed of a sintered copper alloy.
4. (Currently Amended) A ratchet wrench according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a refractory metal.
5. (Currently Amended) A ratchet wrench according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a ceramic material in porous voids.

6. A ratchet wrench according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a synthetic resin material in porous voids.

7. (Original) A ratchet wrench comprising a housing having a first annular holding portion and a second annular holding portion spaced from each other, a shank having a base portion and an engaging portion and disposed between said first and second annular holding portions, and a spring for imparting friction to said shank and for urging the shank toward said second annular holding portion, wherein a film of a sintered copper alloy is formed on at least one of a surface of contact of said shank with said second annular holding portion or a surface of contact of said second annular holding portion with said shank.

8. (Original) A ratchet wrench according to claim 7, wherein a washer is disposed between said shank and said spring, said washer being formed of a sintered copper alloy.

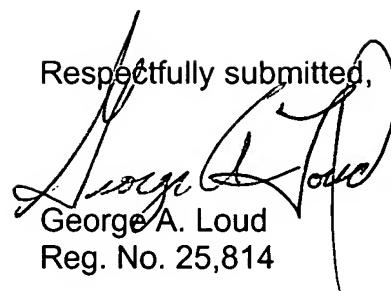
9. (Original) A ratchet wrench according to claim 7, wherein a pin is fixed near said engaging portion of said shank and a guide bushing is disposed between said pin and said spring, said guide bushing being formed of a sintered copper alloy.

10. (Currently Amended) A ratchet wrench according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~, wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a refractory metal.

11. (Currently Amended) A ratchet wrench according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~,
wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a ceramic material in porous voids.

12. (Currently Amended) A ratchet wrench according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~,
wherein said sintered copper alloy is dotted with a synthetic resin material in porous voids.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Loud".

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